

World Class Cross-Country Ski Competition Begins This Week At County's Own Soldier Hollow

Chevy Truck U.S. Cross Country Championship—January 8-15

The best cross-country skiers in the nation and from around the world will compete this week at Wasatch County's very own 2002 Olympic Venue, Soldier Hollow.

Beginning this Thursday athletes ranging from the collegiate to professional level will break the ground, or snow, of Soldier Hollow at the annual Chevy Truck U.S. Cross Country Championship.

The championship is a national annual event held each winter at different winter sports parks across the United States.

All the best junior, senior and master class competitors in the United States and Canada, as well as foreign guest class skiers participate. Skiers from Canada and other European countries will constitute the guest list.

The championship also includes classes for disabled skiers.

Each race will award an overall U.S. Champion, as well as winners of the junior, guest and masters division. The junior division includes skiers up to 20 years of age, while the masters division includes all skiers over 40 years of age skiers.

Everyone Invited To Attend

According to Bob Mathis, Wasatch County Olympic Coordinator, county residents are encouraged to attend the competition and festivities. Specifically, Mathis invites community residents to attend the event Awards Banquet and Closing Ceremonies. Both the awards banquet and closing ceremony celebration have been organized by Tom Whitaker and Valarie Kelson.

Attend Free Cross Country Ski Clinic—January 6

Ever wanted to try cross-country skiing, here is your chance, and it is free! The Fischer Salomon Subaru Factory Team, in cooperation with the Homestead and USSA, is sponsoring a Learn to Ski Clinic from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, January 6, at Soldier. Reservations are not necessary. Just come to Soldier Hollow next Thursday afternoon and strap on some skis.

Anyone who is interested in skiing will be fitted free of charge at 3:30 pm, courtesy of the Homestead. Factory Team instructors will be available to give instruction and you will be able to ski the new trails at Soldier Hollow, the site of the 2002 Winter Olympic Nordic Events.

"This event allows citizens of all ages to try the sport at their own level on a world class course that they already own, since it is part of Wasatch Mountain State Park," said Bob Mathis, Wasatch County Olympic Coordinator.

Persons who wish to discuss more about the clinic may call Endurance Enterprises at 406-585-2660 or check out the Factory Team web page at dreamofit.com.

Awards Banquet—January 10

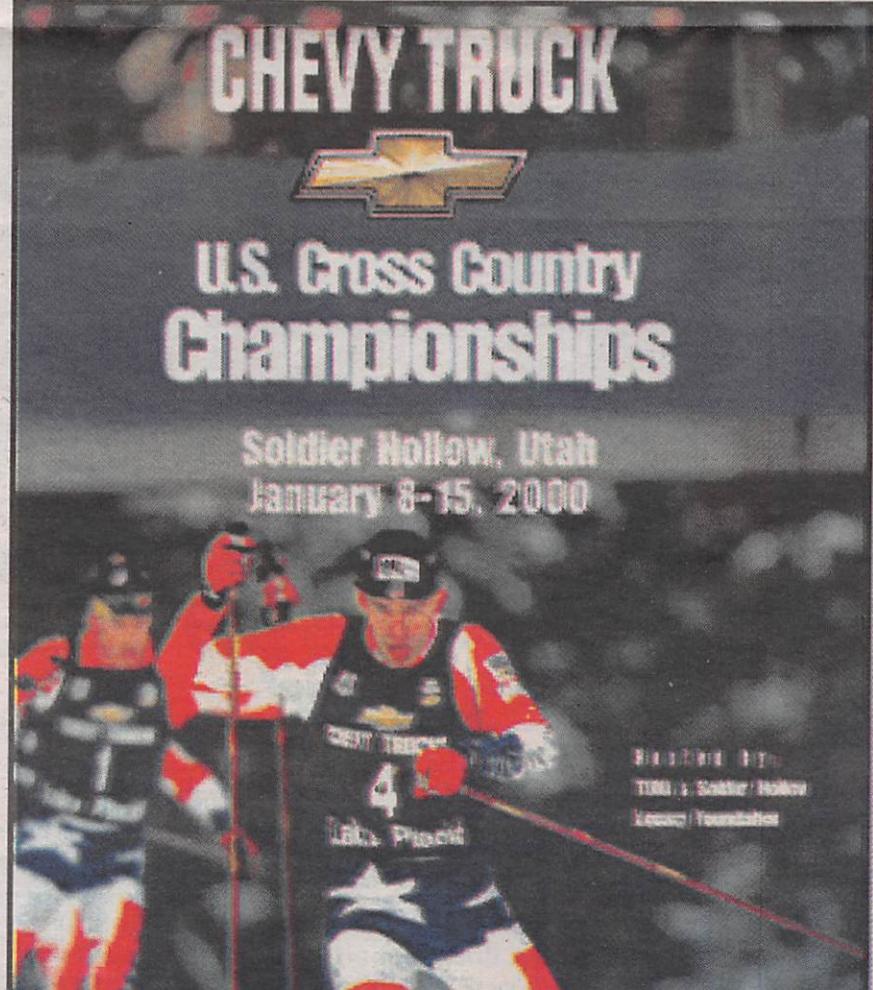
The banquet will present awards and recognize athletes in addition to acquaint the public with the athletes competing in the Chevy Truck Championship. The cost is \$3.00 for children and \$6 for adults and will take place at Midway Town Hall. Entertainment has been coordinated by Bob Donahue and will feature local female quartet, One Voice and dancers from Wasatch Dance Academy and the Mountain Valley Cloggers. In addition individual western vocalists, Susan Kohler as well as Mark Allen are scheduled to perform.

Race Finals and Closing Event Ceremonies—January 15

In addition Mathis says Race Finals and Closing Event Ceremonies will be another main attraction residents should take the opportunity to attend. Mathis says the closing ceremonies are designed as a kind of thank you party to the community and will begin at 12:45 pm January 15th. Skydivers, mounted cowboys and a 150-person voice choir made up of local high school and grade school children are scheduled to appear at the closing event.

Questions & More Information

For additional information about the Chevy Truck Championship and other Soldier Hollow events contact Wasatch County's Olympic Coordinator, Bob Mathis at 654-9992 or the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce: 654-3666. □



EVENTS CALENDAR



Eduring Spirit by Phil Borges is part of a new exhibit at the Kimball Art Center in Park City.

Tuesday, January 4

Get your message to every home in Wasatch County by listing your event in the Courier's FREE Events Calendar. Call 654-2661 for details or fax your information to 654-2531.

Wednesday, January 5

Join in for "Women on Wednesday's" hosted by Deer Valley's Ambassador of Skiing, Heidi Voelker. Call 435-

645-6648 or 888-754-8477 to make a reservation.

Park City's Arts Council presents Ballroom Dancing at Harry O's. 6-8 pm. Cost is \$5. Call 435-649-9747 for more information.

Wasatch County's Library has days of entertainment waiting inside. Stop by Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and check something out.

Thursday, January 6

Deer Valley Ski Resort will have Dual Giant Slalom Format Racing and the Medalist Challenge every day from 10 am-3 pm beginning December 16. Call 435-645-6859 for more information. Hot cider will be served.

Soldier Hollow Free Ski Clinic: call Bob Mathis, 654-9992 for more information.

Friday, January 7

The Kimball Art Center will be featuring exhibits by Phil Borges (Main Gallery), Jeff Scott (Garage Gallery) and Paddy Hiss (Badami Gallery) through February 20.

Saturday, January 8

Attend the Freestyle World Cup at the Park City Ski Resort. Call 435-649-1000 for more information.

Sunday, January 9

Attend the Freestyle World Cup at the Park City Ski Resort. Call 435-649-1000 for more information.

An opening reception for Kimball Art Center's latest exhibition will be held from 3:00-5:00 pm at the Art Center.

Midway resident Don Elliott plays at the Owl Bar, a private club for members, at Sundance every Sunday night from 7:00 to 11:00 pm.

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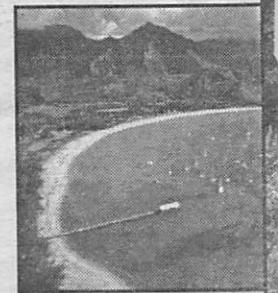
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